

# Joy

Deep gladness rooted in God's character and promises

Joy in Scripture differs fundamentally from worldly happiness. While happiness depends on favorable circumstances, biblical joy remains steadfast regardless of external conditions. This supernatural gladness flows from relationship with God, confidence in His sovereignty, and hope in eternal promises. Joy is simultaneously a gift of the Spirit and a discipline of faith—something received and something cultivated.

The sources of Christian joy are manifold. **Joy in salvation** celebrates the greatest reality: reconciliation with God and deliverance from condemnation. "We also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement" (Romans 5:11). **Joy in God Himself** delights in His character, finding satisfaction in who He is rather than merely what He gives. "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable" (1 Peter 1:8). **Joy in hope** anticipates future glory, transforming present suffering into light affliction. "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation" (Romans 12:12).

Remarkably, Scripture commands joy even amid trials. "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations" (James 1:2). This is possible because joy depends not on circumstances but on unchanging realities: God's love, Christ's victory, the Spirit's presence, and heaven's certainty. Paul wrote his epistle of joy from prison, demonstrating that external chains cannot bind internal gladness. The joy of the Lord becomes the believer's strength (Nehemiah 8:10), enabling endurance when human resources fail.

Joy manifests in worship, gratitude, generosity, and witness. Joyful believers attract others to Christ more effectively than dutiful ones. Joy is contagious—it overflows to bless others and glorify God. "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15:11).

## Joy in Salvation

Rejoicing in redemption

**Luke 10:20** — Rejoice that your names are written in heaven

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

**Romans 5:11** — Joy in God through Christ

And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

**Psalms 51:12** — Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

**Isaiah 61:10** — My soul shall be joyful in my God

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

## Joy in Trials

Finding joy amid suffering

**James 1:2** — Count it all joy

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

**Romans 5:3** — Glory in tribulations

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

**1 Peter 4:13** — Rejoice in Christ's sufferings

But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

**Acts 5:41** — Rejoicing to suffer for His name

And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

## Fullness of Joy

Complete joy in God

**John 15:11** — That your joy might be full

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

**Psalms 16:11** — Fullness of joy in thy presence

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

**John 16:24** — Ask, that your joy may be full

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

**1 John 1:4** — That your joy may be full

And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

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